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The CAROLINA FARMER

DECEMBER, 1968

Hotpoint

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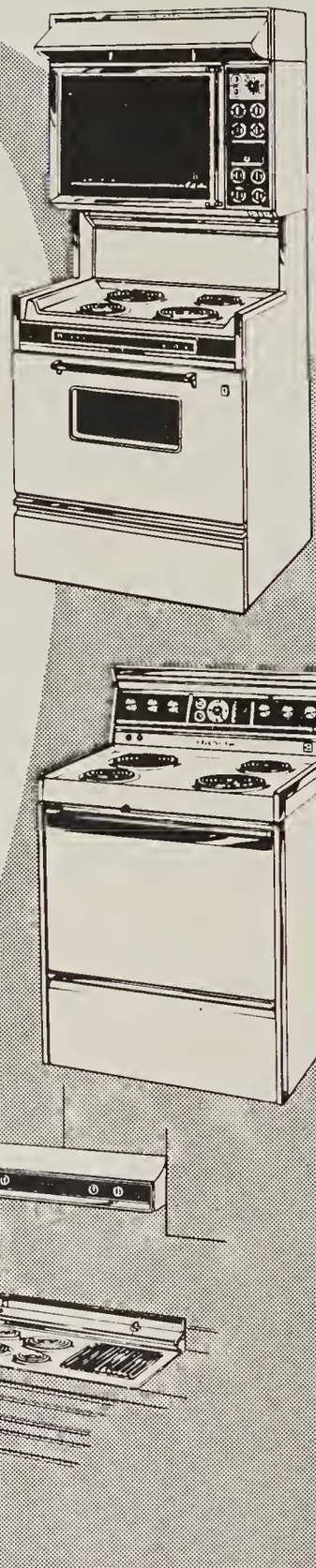

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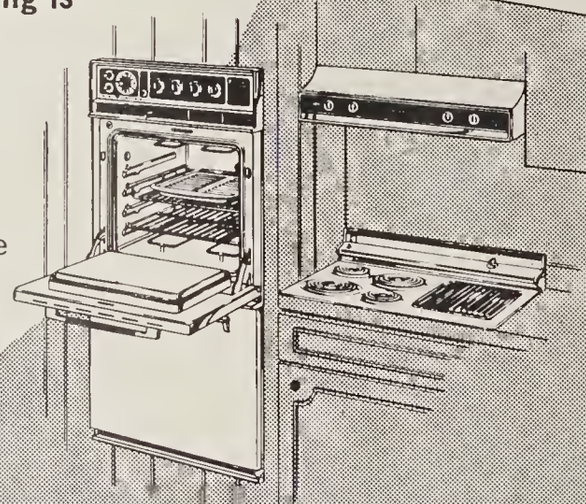

Hotpoint

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
Louisville, Kentucky 40225

Look for the Hotpoint Difference

The CAROLINA FARMER

Vol. 23, No. 12, December, 1968

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COVER— Francois Duquesnoy's beautiful head of the Virgin Mary, mother of the baby Jesus, sets our December theme, and our December issue carries the theme throughout its pages in Christmas features. The sculpture, a gift of Mrs. Arthur Levy of Raleigh and her late husband, is a treasure of the North Carolina Museum of Art. Duquesnoy (1597-1643), a Flemish sculptor who worked chiefly in Italy, is one of many masters represented by works at the Museum.

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THE CAROLINA FARMER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY TARHEEL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION INC SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT MEMPHIS, TENN 38118. EDITORIAL OFFICES, SUITE 911, BRANCH BANK BUILDING, RALEIGH, N C 27602. POSTMASTER, SEND FORM 3579 TO BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N C 27602. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, 70 CENTS PER YEAR PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT 3781 LAMAR AVE MEMPHIS TENN 38118. CONTENTS COPYRIGHTED 1968 BY TARHEEL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION INC

A Hullabaloo for Christmas

Twenty years ago or so I wrote a bitter article decrying the commercialization of Christmas.

The way the stores started the Christmas season well before Thanksgiving struck me as a desecration of the holy feast. I took angry exception to the playing of Christmas music from loudspeakers to get shoppers in the mood for Christmas buying, and I charged the jingle bells of Christmas had been rung out by the jingle of the cash register.

Well, Christmas still comes early in the stores. The decorations go up on our main streets just as they did then, before Thanksgiving, and the cash registers still jingle, and the commercialization is even more intense.

I suppose I could still make the same charges and use the same angry words, but my mood has mellowed.

In fact, I find now that I can't wait for Christmas. The merriment can't start too soon for me any more. I'm glad when they start stringing the lights and hanging the artificial wreaths in the business district, and I like the Christmas music echoing through November's streets.

I'm not condoning desecrations; it's just that I'm finding as I grow older that there is more to Christmas than buying gifts and hoping you'll get the equal or better in return. I'm learning that the hullabaloo of Christmas sales and Christmas parades and the hard-sell Santa Claus really don't matter if you can hear the hymn above the din.

And so I commend you, let the Christmas lights go on even earlier than now. Let the merchants drown the shoppers in Christmas' glad tidings. Let the cash registers ring and the shopping center Santas come as early as they will.

Because if you have Christmas in your heart, the spirit of it will carry you through the cacophony. And if you have a place to be on Christmas Day with those who love Christmas too, and if you will hear in your church the Christmas story told again, you will know in your heart when Christmas comes that it is a miracle never tarnished. And you will wish its spirit could prevail not only from before Thanksgiving but through every month of your years.

Jim Chaney

Your Garden Soil Could Need More Lime

Before you start planning your 1969 garden, consider how you fared in 1968.

Was last season's garden a success? Were the peas plentiful and the tomatoes firm? Did the cabbage head and the squash grow well?

Or were there problems?

Was it hard to get a stand of corn and did the beans look knotty?

Did something just seem wrong — something that couldn't be explained by weather, insects, diseases and similar things?

Then, your problem could have been acid soil.

Excessive soil acidity is a major problem for both farmers and home gardeners. And the problem is getting worse.

Acid soils are eating away farm profits, and they're taking some of the pride and profitability out of home gardening.

Dr. Preston Reid, director of the Soil Testing Laboratory of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, reports that his lab tested 8,332 samples of soil from gardens and lawns last year.

"At least 80 percent of these samples showed the need for lime," Dr. Reid said. "Seldom do we get a lawn sample that does not show the need for lime."

Lime, of course, is the ingredient that corrects excessive soil acidity.

This is not to suggest that all lawn and garden problems are caused by acid soil. Excessive soil acidity works in many indirect ways to cause poor root development, and hence poor stands and yields, of crops. But even the experts have a hard time diagnosing acidity problems with the naked eye.

The only sure-fire way to detect an acidity problem is through a soil test. In fact, lime should never be applied to soil without taking a soil test first because over-liming can be just as harmful as under-liming.

Lime works to "sweeten" acid soil. Proper liming can eliminate the harmful effects of aluminum, a major ingredient in acid soils. Lime can also supply plants with calcium and magnesium, make other nutrients more available to plants, and promote helpful bacterial activity in the soil.

You can't match it with acid soil.

Excessive soil acidity causes an estimated $40 million loss in annual farm income. So great has this income loss been that the Agricultural Extension Service and many allied groups have planned a concentrated attack against excessive soil acidity.

But the man with a row of sweet corn in the garden can benefit from this attack on excessive soil acidity as well as the man with a 200-acre farm.

For the most benefit, however, one should follow these five steps to proper liming, as outlined by Dr. Reid and Dr. Jack Baird, an extension soils specialist at N.C. State University.

1. Apply lime only when recommended by a soil test. Such tests are offered free by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and are available from some commercial laboratories in the state. Information on how to take a soil sample and boxes for mailing the samples to Raleigh can be obtained from the local office of the Agricultural Extension Service. Follow the directions carefully.

2. Take your soil test, if at all possible, during the summer, fall or early winter. Avoid late winter and early spring when the Soil Testing Laboratory and lime dealers are usually operating at capacity.

3. Remember that lime does not move around much in the soil. Therefore, it must be spread evenly and mixed thoroughly throughout the soil "root zone." Applying lime on the top of the ground, for example, is not nearly as beneficial as applying fertilizer in the same manner.

4. Apply lime several months before planting time, if possible. Lime must have time to react within the soil before plants can receive its benefits. But once it does react within the soil, its benefits will last longer than those of fertilizer. Piedmont and Mountain soils should be tested for lime needs about once every four or five years. Coastal Plain soils should be tested once every two or three years.

5. Remember that the lime needs of plants vary. Most corps grown in North Carolina, including most vegetables, do best at a pH range of 5.5 to 6.5. Some plants, such as blueberries and azaleas, like soils that are much more acid than this. Other plants, such as alfalfa and sweet clover, like soils that are much more alkaline or sweet.

Don't let the term "pH" throw you. It is simply a device for measuring soil acidity and it works much like a thermometer. The scale or pH range goes from 0 to 14. Soil that registers 7 is considered neutral — that is, it is neither acid or alkaline. Anything below 7 is considered acid. Anything above 7 is considered alkaline or sweet.

For more information on proper liming contact your local office of the Agricultural Extension Service. You may find that this relatively plentiful and economical material can be your best investment in pleasant gardening and profitable farming in 1969.

Tom Byrd

TARHEEL RURAL LINES

reports on events of importance to rural electric co-op members/by J. C. Brown Jr.

The Elections and Rural Electrification

IT'S TOO EARLY to weigh the make-up of the 91st Congress in terms of its support of rural electrification. My guess is that we can expect about the same measure of support we've had the past four years, which is too little in terms of sufficient loan funds, but enough to stand off the power companies' assaults on the total program.

One problem which we didn't have is a certainty: While Congress authorizes and appropriates loan funds, it can't force the President to spend them. The Budget Bureau, which represents the Administration in such matters, can and has put stop orders on loan funds. Even under a friendly President, the Budget Bureau had little appreciation for rural electrification. Six times under President Johnson, spokesmen in the Administration who did understand the value of REA had to go directly to the President to get him to overrule the Budget Bureau on anti-REA rulings. All six times the President responded in your behalf.

President-elect Nixon has very seldom cast favorable votes for REA and related resource issues. Following the election, the President of South Carolina Electric and Gas forecast that the regulatory climate (for private utilities) would be more favorable than under the present administration. No matter how favorable Congress may be to the REA program, Mr. Nixon's record and his closeness to the power companies suggests we'll have it tougher in getting to use such loan funds as are appropriated by Congress, and the consumer will find the Federal Power Commission more oriented to the power companies than to the public.

ON THE STATE LEVEL, the outlook is better. For more years than not, the public has had to deal with a Utilities Commission, a majority of whom seemed to feel its responsibility was to the monopoly companies rather than to the public it was appointed to protect. The rural electric cooperative people and other consumer groups gave enthusiastic support to Governor-elect Bob Scott. They did so not on his promises, but on his consistent record of championing them when they needed it. Based on his past performance, the public should be able to count on an improvement in the make-up of the Utilities Commission.

We can also hope for a fairer shake with the industry-hunting division of the Department of Conservation and Development. The cooperatives and the people of the area they serve are being hurt by the attitude of this state department, which when it comes to promoting utility service, generally recognizes only the existence of the absentee-owned private power companies.

the Christmas Closet

by Jim Chaney

The little house stood on a rise overlooking a ravine with a large maple tree in its front yard and a gaunt, thorny locust tree in back.

It had a little porch with a shed roof below its front gable sheltering its front door, an "A" roof with weather-stained cedar shingles and a chimney in the middle, mullioned sash windows and weatherboarding that needed paint.

It was a crowded little house and now with the approach of Christmas it was a house overcrowded with children's hopes.

It was not a house for secrets or for hiding things. The children had ready access to its only two closets. One was at the head of the stairs. The other was under the stairs. Neither had a lock on its door.

There were only four rooms—two downstairs and two up under the roof. One of the downstairs rooms was used as a kitchen and for family meals, washing, ironing and Saturday night baths. The other was furnished with a large round oak table with a pedestal base and matching chairs, an oak sideboard, a treadle sewing machine, a large imitation leather rocker and an imitation leather davenport that opened into a bed.

The kitchen was at the front of the house. It had a large black kitchen range with wood stacked beside it and a kitchen cabinet with shelves for dishes and a bin for flour at the top, drawers for knives, forks and spoons and cupboards at the bottom for pots and pans. An ice box of varnished oak with a well in the top for a block of ice stood against one wall. A wash basin and a water bucket with a dipper in it sat on a small table near the front door. A large oblong table with an oil cloth spread and a kerosene lamp on it stood opposite the range, and there were chairs drawn up under it and placed about the room.

The upstairs rooms had slanting ceilings and one window each in their gable ends. Mama and Pa slept in one of the rooms. The four girls slept in the other. The boy slept downstairs on the davenport.

The boy was anxiously counting the days until Christmas. He wanted a train. He had pored over the pages of toy trains in the Montgomery Ward catalog that came to his house and in the Sears and Roebuck catalog at Grandpa's house up the road until he could see the pictures when he closed his eyes and could nearly recite the descriptions from memory.

As the eldest of the five children—who in a few years would be increased by the births of two more boys to seven—he had an edge on his sisters in Christmas experiences. Most of his experiences had been happy ones but he had known disappointments and somehow he felt he might be disappointed again.

A train. He had to have a train for Christmas. He had to find a way to make sure Santa Claus understood that. He had seen exactly what he wanted in the catalogs. It was a deluxe set with freight cars, a guaranteed spring-driven engine, two switches, a siding and a miniature station and signals. If he could just get that he wouldn't want anything else. Nothing else, Santa Claus, just that train with switches.

But there were rules: You didn't get what you wanted for Christmas unless you were good. Santa Claus kept a list and everything bad you did was written in it. The boy shuddered to think of that. He could only anxiously hope Santa Claus might forgive and forget if he would be really good from now until Christmas Eve.

The girls always seemed to be good and he seemed always to be getting into trouble. He didn't mean to be bad but things were always happening that turned out to be his fault.

Like getting into things that didn't belong to him, or bothering things that should be left alone, or misplacing Pa's tools, or rummaging in Mama's sewing machine drawers and losing her needles. Or like using Pa's saw to cut a side of salt meat that shouldn't have been cut and then leaving the saw in the meat house to corrode.

If he had been a little older he might have understood his problem was acute curiosity and, understanding, might have known how to curb it.

He was still, though, a boy too little for rationalizations. He and his oldest sister Frances, a year younger than he, had just started to school the past September. He liked to read and write. But more than anything he liked to read things he shouldn't and open boxes and pull out drawers to see what had been added since the last time he had looked and to take things apart that usually he couldn't put back together.

A few weeks before Christmas, he and Frances had come home from school, walking the long road from the mail box by the frog pond where the school bus stopped, past the turn that led to Grandpa's and across the rude footbridge across the creek at the bottom of the ravine up the hill to the little house, and had found Mama and Pa and the three little sisters gone.

The boy and Frances cut pieces of the big homemade bread that Mama baked and made peanut butter sandwiches. After they had eaten and realized fully that they were the only ones at home, the boy without really thinking about it opened the door of the closet under the stairs.

There was nothing there but jars of vegetables his mother had put up from the garden and some old X-ray plates his father had brought home from the hospital to study. The boy puzzled over the X-rays for a while, then put them back in the closet and closed the door.

Next he opened the doors of the sideboard, listlessly examined the collection of bowls and whatnots his mother had stored and indifferently rummaged through the drawers. Nothing really interesting had been placed in the sideboard since the last time he had plundered it.

Finally, after a similar inspection of the kitchen cabinet, the ice box and the kitchen generally, he went upstairs. Since the upstairs closet was at the head of the stairs, he looked into it before going into the bedrooms.

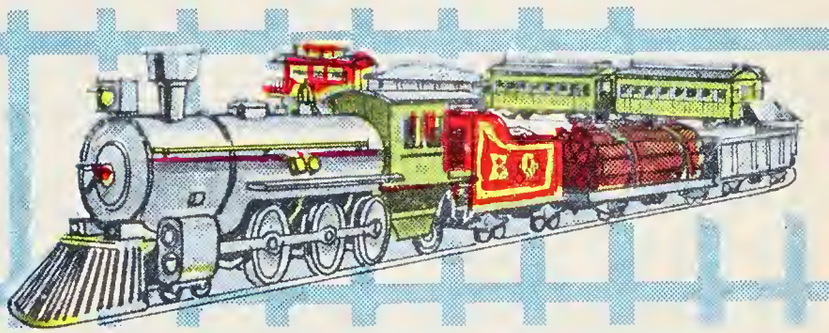
At the very back of the closet, harbored snug under the slanting eaves, was a large cardboard box. He had seen it many times before. It contained extra towels and out-of-season clothing and nothing at all exciting, at least not the last time he had gone through it.

Now, with nothing else to do but wait for his parents to return, he found himself mysteriously attracted by the big cardboard box. He pushed through the coats and dresses hanging at the front of the closet and worked himself up to the big box.

He pulled aside the old bedspread Mama had laid across it to keep dust from getting inside. He took out a layer of towels and reached to lift another layer. His hand felt something solid, something like a carton, something that hadn't been there before.

The boy reached into the big box with both hands and pulled out the carton and lifted it out. It was wrapped with brown paper and tied with a string. He carried the carton out to the tiny landing at the head of the stairs, cut the string with the knife he got from the kitchen and pulled away the wrapping paper.

The carton contained a baby doll.



The boy immediately plunged back into the closet. He reached into the big cardboard box again and felt another and larger carton. It, too, was wrapped in brown paper and tied with a string. The boy cut the string and pulled off the wrapping paper. The carton was large and white and across the top was a big picture of a train—a passenger train. The words "American Flyer" were written in large letters above the picture.

The boy opened the carton and in it found an engine and tender, three brightly painted tin passenger cars and a collection of track.

It wasn't a freight train. There weren't any switches. There was no miniature station or signals. It was a train, but it wasn't the train he wanted. It was a train, but whose train could it be?

The boy wondered if he should call his sister. He stiffled the impulse. Something told him he had discovered a secret that Frances mustn't know. Something told him he had discovered a secret he wished he didn't know.

(Continued on Page 17)

What Can Be Done for Rural America?

What can and should be done to improve the economy and standard of living of all rural Americans?

Some Americans who speak with authority on rural matters explored the question during a national Co-op Day program in Raleigh, and they came up with answers.

Former Governor Edward T. Breathitt of Kentucky, who last year served as chairman of the President's Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty and who now is director of the Institute of Rural America, said the answer is a national development policy.

"It is time," he said in the keynote address at the Raleigh meeting, "for the American people, American enterprise and American government to come to grips with the number one problem in America's future.

"America must chart a national development policy.

"Her people, her enterprise and her government must then concert their resources to carry it through."

Dr. Selz C. Mayo, head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University, said the answer lies in using the strengths of rural communities and community loyalties to create "a social climate in which the dignity and worth of the individual gets the highest priority."

"Rural America is not dead, far from it," Dr. Mayo said. "Rural America is still virile, dynamic. But efforts must not be instigated on the assumption that the old, the past rural life can be or should be restored... A new rural community must be visualized and developed deliberately and rationally."

George H. Esser Jr., executive director of The North Carolina Fund, said it's not only a question of deciding what can be done, it's whether we are willing to make commitments.

"Solutions for the problems of rural Americans will not be found," he said, "by focusing on rural America alone, or on urban America alone, but on American society as a whole. We not only have the poor in the city but millions of poor in the country. They are, as was aptly stated in the title of the President's Advisory Commission, 'The People Left Behind.' "It seems to me," Esser added, "that the rural electric cooperatives have much experience to offer in helping design new approaches to rural community development. They have demonstrated that people can come together, pool their resources and their efforts, and with government assistance build effective systems for delivering electricity. The problem now is to determine whether the co-ops themselves can expand their efforts fruitfully into new fields and can help adapt their experience to similar cooperatives formed entirely of the rural nonfarm poor."

Ed Kiley, consultant for community services for NRECA, saw the question as a challenge for the nation's rural electrics. Electric co-ops in many areas, he reported, are providing the leadership for programs which are helping rural people and rural communities. "The federal government and state governments must not and cannot come in with a program and force it down people's throats," he said. "There must be action by the people, by the communities."

And, he also said: "We need a delivery system to carry the many programs to the people who need them."

Charles B. Sonneborn, special assistant for small communities in the U.S. Department of Housing, and Urban Development, contended the present delivery system isn't effective. The "delivery system" we now have through the agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture must be expanded, he said, to include the programs of other agencies such as HUD, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. "The people in the delivery system," he said, "are not knowledgeable of the many programs outside the USDA . . ."

Dr. Mayo, Esser, Kiley and Sonneborn gave their views as members of a panel. The panel moderator was Walter Jacoby, director of Youth Education for the American Institute of Cooperation.

North Carolina was selected for the Co-op Month observance by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and NRECA. The Co-op Day program, which was attended by nearly 500 state and national rural leaders, was sponsored by NRECA and Tarheel Electric Membership Association in behalf of the nation's 1,000 electric cooperatives.

North Carolina's Lt. Gov. Robert W. Scott, speaking for Governor Dan Moore, told the

audience, "The nation chose well in selecting this state for this national observance."

North Carolina, he pointed out, was the pioneer state in rural electrification and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have given meaning to the Co-op Month slogan: "Cooperatives-Community Builders."

In the 30 years since North Carolina became the first state to adopt rural electrification legislation, Scott said, North Carolina's electric membership corporations have extended service to the point that they now serve over a million people. Their low-cost service in rural areas, he added, has made it possible for industry to locate in rural areas and for rural communities "to move ahead."

As evidence of what this has meant to North Carolina's economy, Scott cited a recent survey by State REA Chairman Gwyn B. Price. The survey showed North Carolina's electric cooperatives are making possible commerical and industrial payrolls of nearly a half million dollars a year in rural areas.

The lieutenant governor urged the electric cooperatives to continue their community-building efforts and to "put the highest priority" on hiring industrial specialists to work with State agencies in attracting new industries to rural areas.

"And continue your role as the consumers' guardian in the marketplace," he said. "Time and time again, through your unity and consumer orientation, you have challenged rate increases and proposed policies legally and at great expense, and you have won these battles."

Representatives of all cooperatives in the state joined in the observance. Harry B. Caldwell, executive vice president of the Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina, spoke for the many kinds of cooperatives which make up his organization.

Cooperatives came into being, he said, to meet needs that weren't being met. The primary difference between a cooperative corporation and a profit-motivated corporation is that the cooperative is primarily interested in rendering a service.

Cooperatives are as American as baseball, he said, and they are a very important part, a contributing part, of American capitalism and our free-enterprise system.

Vice President Hubert Humphrey, speaking in a film made for the event, called for a "new commitment to rural America."

"Certainly, I do not have to remind this audience about the need to do something," the Vice President said. "Yes, something dramatic and meaningful to reserve the decline of our rural economies across this land."

And dramatically, the evidence was flashed in color pictures across a large screen of specific examples of how electric co-ops are doing something.

A series of "North Carolina Success Stories," six color sound films and narrated by Phil McMartin of NRECA, illustrated rural community developments which six representative electric co-ops helped make possible. The program was coordinated by Jake Lewis of NRECA.

And six representative EMC spokesmen told simply, in matter-of-fact terms, how their electric membership corporations had worked and are working for community development. The co-op spokesmen were Manager John Coston of Albemarle EMC, Hertford, N.C.: Manager W.C.Carlton of Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City: Manager G. Leslie Rucker of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro; Manager H. H. McKinney of Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro: Manager D. M. Robinson of French Broad EMC, Marshall, and Herman Anderson, director of industrial development for Blue Ridge EMC of Lenoir.

Noel Lee, president of Tarheel Electric Membership Association, opened the program with the invocation. J. C. Brown Jr., executive manager of TEMA, acted as master of ceremonies.

Governor Breathitt said the nation's rural problems are bound up in a vicious circle with its urban problems and are overlooked in the national obsession with urban problems.

Breathitt said the present migration of people from rural areas to congested cities must be halted and reversed.

"Month by month, year by year," he said, "decisions are being made which bind us more inflexibly to an ultimate distribution of people and economic activity which, I am convinced, the American people do not want — and which our children and grandchildren will find intolerable.

"Month by month, year by year, we are depriving the American people of a genuine choice of where to live and how to live."

"By promulgating a national policy," he explained, "our leaders would provide a common framework and a common sense of purpose and direction to the hundreds of individual programs for area and regional development that are going on across the country today — and the hundreds more that are needed . . .

"An explicit, proclaimed national policy would also provide concepts around which to organize and greatly expand all the stimulative activities of government and private enterprise.

Breathitt said the national policy must not focus mainly on physical facilities. Human resource development should be paramount in the policy, he said.

". . . The level and rate of human resource development largely controls our physical investment decision," he pointed out." . . . Our purpose is to create an environment for the future which is better for people than the megolopolis. We will succeed only if people have the opportunity to lead productive, rewarding lives in our alternative future.

"Thus, national development policy must include manpower development policy, educational development policy, housing development policy, health development policy — as well as policies directing the location and types of roads, water systems, and other public facilities — and policies influencing the location of private economic activities."

The goal, he explained, must be urban-rural balance.

"Historically, cities have moved faster in providing opportunities for their residents than rural areas," he said. "America's national development policy will succeed only if it restores a balance of opportunity."

—Jim Chaney

The First Christmas Tree

The Miracle of the Flowering Thorn

It sprouted on Christmas Day over 1,900 years ago, and it's still growing. It's not a fir but a thorn tree, and it became the site of the first Christian mission to the British Isles. In the 17th Century, religious fanatics chopped it down, but it grew again and it still blooms every Christmas. Whenever a member of the royal family visits the tree, either the original or its off-shoot planted at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the tree blooms even if it is only one snow-white bud that saves the day.

Rural Americans who live near forests and woods know the joy of selecting and cutting their own Christmas trees. In many instances it is a family occasion and has a great festive air, a preliminary to the celebration of the holiday itself.

The Christmas tree, one of the true delights of Christian mankind, brings great satisfaction to both children and adults. Its fragrant evergreen boughs gently bow down, decorated in a colorful profusion of ornaments and at its base usually rests the creche, a representation of the stable at Bethlehem with the infant Jesus surrounded by Mary, Joseph, the cattle, shepherds and Magi.

Electric lights allow us to safely decorate and sheath the tree in tiers of colorful light with a representation of the "Star of the East" on top. Through rural electrification, which is only 30 years old, this delightful and safe way of decorating the Christmas tree has been made available to 20 million rural Americans.

How old is the Christmas tree and how did this custom originate? What was the first Christmas tree and why does it mean so much to us today?

Some historians credit St. Boniface with introducing the Christmas tree in the early 700's to the pagan German tribes as a symbol of peace and everlasting life, and as a reminder of Christ. The evergreen was a substitute for the giant oak which the pagans worshipped as their deity.

Martin Luther is credited by others with having set up the first tree for his children and placing lighted candles on it to impress them with the idea that Christ, the Light of the World, had illuminated the sky on Christmas eve.

No matter how it began, the decorated Christmas tree we know today as the symbol of both religious and joyous celebration certainly had its origin in Germany. And, of course, the most celebrated song of the Christmas tree, "Oh, Tannenbaum," is German.

What mankind can regard as the "first" Christmas tree, however, was not an evergreen but a variety of the common hawthorn tree. It was never decorated except with its own snow-white flowers, which always bloomed at Christmas time, and it earned its claim as the "first" Christmas tree only 41 years after the birth of Christ.

Not only is it claimed that the hawthorn tree was the "first" Christmas tree, but according to legend the "first" refers to a specific thorn tree, the Glastonbury Thorn, still growing near Glastonbury, England, on the same site 1,900 years after it was planted.

Moreover, our nation's capital, renowned during the holiday season for its famous National Christmas Tree, is also the year 'round home of an equally important but lesser known Christmas tree, a full-grown offshoot of the Glastonbury Thorn. This famous offshoot is planted at the Washington National Cathedral, a favorite visiting place for rural electric youngsters on their annual Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

The thorn tree flowers in the mild climate of late fall and early winter. The Glastonbury Thorn became famous because it blossomed faithfully on Christmas Day. Its fame spread quickly and grafts were transplanted in many villages.

To understand the full religious significance of the "Holy Thorn" as it is called, one must refer to the year 41 A.D. and the legend of Joseph of Arimathaea. This wealthy merchant and Christian leader was forced to flee Palestine after the heavy persecution that began following the Resurrection of Christ. He and other Christian disciples escaped by boat in a heavy storm and were blown across the Mediterranean Sea to southern France. The women remained there, but Joseph and 12 others sailed the craft to what is now Britain.

They proceeded inland, and after a great distance stopped to rest on Christmas Day. Joseph of Arimathaea plunged his staff into the top of what is now known as Weary-All Hill. Immediately, miraculously, it took root, budded and then blossomed with snow-white flowers. From that beginning it bloomed every Christmas Day.

Joseph believed their journey ended. King Avigarus, ruler of the area, gave them the land. Although it was marshy, Joseph and his companions built a church and several huts, and established what is believed to be the first Christian mission in the British Isles.

From this beginning, the Glastonbury Thorn became more and more famous. In the 17th Century, members of a fanatical wing of the Puritan religion cut it down, claiming that people were worshipping it as an idol. New shoots were transplanted, not only to villages, but all over the world. Many of these still bloom at Christmas time.

The fact of the Glastonbury Thorn bursting into bloom on Christmas Eve once caused much consternation among the people of that famous old village. In September of 1752, the English adopted the Gregorian calendar and overnight September 2 became September 14. To the villagers' dismay, Christmas would arrive 12 day earlier.

On the new Christmas Eve,

about 2,000 of the faithful gathered, lanterns trained on the gnarled branches of the Holy Thorn. Neither bud nor blossom appeared.

The next day, many had misgivings about the "new" Christmas and stayed home from church. To further confirm their misgivings, on January 5, the day Christmas would have been celebrated under the old calendar, the Thorn burst into bloom.

Washington, D.C., received its Thorn shoot in October, 1901, from the owner of the Glastonbury ruins. The ground for the huge National Cathedral now overlooking Washington from Mount St. Alban was broken in 1902, and the shoot was planted.

If you visit the Cathedral, you will find reproductions of the tree in the Cathedral's symbolic decorations. It is reproduced in the partition behind the Bethlehem Chapel's altar and is also carved in one of the chapel's ornamental blocks, which are found in the ribs of the Gothic vaulting.

Adding to the mystery and beauty of both the Washington and Glastonbury thorns is a legend and tradition enduring from medieval times which imparts miraculous influence to visits by the British Royal Family. Upon the appearance of a royal visitor in Glastonbury, the thorn blossoms and it is customary to present the royal visitor with a bud in a silver box. It is claimed that the tree has never failed.

The ancient tradition has been adopted by the Washington National Cathedral. Its thorn blossomed for the first time on Christmas, 1918, about 16 years after it was planted. In November, 1919, Edward VIII, the present Duke of Windsor, visited the Bishop of Washington. The tree blossomed and Edward received his bud.

When Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, now Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, visited the National Cathedral in November, 1951, Washington's thorn blossomed again and the royal visitors received the traditional buds.

In November, 1954, when the Queen Mother Mary was to attend a service in the National Cathedral, it seemed that the Washington thorn would fail, for not the slightest indication of a blossom was in evidence.

Washington's "Glastonbury Thorn" with the National Cathedral in the background.

The Rev. Canon C. Martin, the sharp-eyed headmaster of nearby St. Albans School for Boys, would not be daunted. After much searching he found a lone blossom at the very top of the tree. The tradition remained intact.

On Elizabeth's first visit as Queen of England on October 20, 1957, the Washington thorn needed no coaxing. It blossomed profusely. Instead of presenting the Queen with a blossom in a silver box, flowering branches were included in the huge floral display decorating the interior of the Cathedral.

This glorious and most ancient tradition of Christmas is perpetuated in our nation's capital, host to our National Christmas Tree, and harbor for a relative of the "first" Christmas tree.

By John Prokop

A Homemaker's Electric Christmas

The Carolina Homemaker
Edited By Betty McBride

The perfect gift for Christmas for you is something you will use every day, that will be especially nice to have when company comes, and will also look glamorous.

Do you know what you are wishing for then? You are wishing for a practical and pretty portable electric appliance. A frypan, coffeepot, toaster or blender can be bought in a color and style to suit your fancy, your kitchen or your dress.

Small portable appliances serve many needs. They're for the times when you don't want to use the electric range but still want the clean convenience of electric cooking. They're for the times, too, when you have more things going than you can handle with the range alone. They're often automatic and they're always handy for snacks or brunches or even full meals.

Portable electric appliances are especially wonderful for entertaining. Color is "in" with small appliances. They are now just as appropriate for serving pieces as for cooking.

We hope you will receive something for Christmas that you can use everyday, enjoy especially when company comes, and will brighten your time in the kitchen.

A Frypan

It will be difficult to decide which electric frypan you want this Christmas. There are so many new features, shapes and styles.

Most new frypans feature high dome covers so you can cook a wider variety of large items. You can now bake big roasts or whole chickens as well as the usual panfrying. The newest feature to make the frypan more versatile is the addition of a broiling unit. The broiling unit is placed in the frypan lid and accompanied by a broiling rack for the pan. The frypan quickly converts into a convenient, clean broiling appliance.

Sleek looking buffet frypans have been designed to take to the table so that you won't miss any of your own party. They have two side handles instead

of one to give you a better balance in carrying the frypan. Buffet frypans come in a range of colors to add a party note to your serving tables.

The main reason you want a new electric frypan is because the frypan relieves the homemaker of "pot-watching." There is a thermostat which assures accurate temperature during the entire cooking period. Use of the frypan also eliminates excess oven heat in the kitchen.

An electric frypan is so versatile. It can be used to fry, roast, pan-broil, stew, bake casserole dishes, cakes, quick breads, pies, custards and desserts. It just seems to do everything!

A Blender

Blender sales are rising rapidly as homemakers learn to use the blender to speed up and simplify food preparation. Manufacturers are working to produce blenders featuring wider ranges of speed and higher styling.

An electric blender introduces the homemaker to a new food preparation method. In the blending process foods are liquefied or chopped to any desired degree of fineness. A good blender can be used to do such tasks as stir, puree, whip, grate, mix, chop, blend, and liquefy.

The blender you want should be stable and well-balanced when in use. The blender should have a powerful motor and removable, long-lasting stainless steel cutting blades. Look for a blender with multi-speed easy-to-operate controls and smooth, easy-to-clean surfaces. The best blenders have securely fitting glass containers that are graduated for measuring, molded of cold and heat resistent glass, and designed with a wide opening to make it easy to add and remove contents. For extra convenience select a blender that opens at both ends for easy cleaning.

There are some special luxuries featured in several new blender models that you may want. One blender manufacturer has introduced a blender with a spatula to assure consistent mixing and to prevent food from sticking to the sides of the blender jar. Another blender model is designed so a mason jar may be used in place of the blender jar. This means food may be blended and stored in the same jar. Many blenders are appearing with ice crusher attachments as an added attraction.

A Coffeepot

You may love your old coffeepot but it is difficult not to eye the new ones. From a new family-sized coffeepot to a larger buffet model, the electric coffeemakers offer new features and new styling to make better coffee while looking prettier.

An automatic electric coffeemaker assures you of good, consistent coffee because of two important features. First, an electric coffeepot has a thermostatic heat control, which allows coffee to brew without boiling and keeps brewed coffee at drinking temperature. Secondly, there is a strength selector dial you can set to control the strength of the coffee automatically.

The greatest news in coffeepots is now it is easier to clean the inside of a coffeepot. Teflon is used for the interior of several new models. One manufacturer uses a high luster plastic that is not only easy to clean, but with double wall insulation, acts as a thremos to keep coffee warm without additional electricity after brewing.

For the perfect pot of coffee to start off the day and last through the morning, wish for a new electric coffeepot.

An Electric Knife

What work can the electric knife help you with in the kitchen? An electric slicing knife can make the tiresome hand chore of carving and slicing a simple task. More than just carving meat, poultry and fish, the electric knife can be used to slice cold meat and cold cuts, fruits, cheese, breads, vegetables. It also will shred cabbage and lettuce, cut sandwiches, slice brick ice cream, angel food cake and frosted layer cakes without crushing. By using an electric knife to prepare serving portions of many foods you can improve the appearance of what you serve.

A Wafflebaker-Grill

The wafflebaker-grill is a great combination appliance. Use the waffle grid side to prepare waffles and French toast. Then, perhaps when you don't want to heat up the stove, the smooth grilling surface on the reverse side can be used to prepare toasted sandwiches, hamburgers, bacon, eggs, pancakes, and other quick dishes.

You will thoroughly enjoy this little appliance. You should look for a wafflebaker-grill with heavy aluminum grids for even heat distribution. Definitely select a model with a Teflon finish for non-stick cooking and easy cleaning. Also choose a wafflebaker grill that has an automatic signal light to indicate when the proper temperature has been reached.

The wafflebaker-grill is a good counter appliance that is always ready to help with snacks and quick pick-up meals.

A Toaster

Toasters don't look like toasters any more. They have been remodeled. Toasters are prettier and thinner. Many models have decorative side panels and other design items. One toaster line features glass side panels in a three dimension design to blend with any kitchen decor. The new thin line toasters do not take up the room the old models did at the table or on the counter. One new model is actually only 3½ inches wide.

The most practical, common sense new feature in the toaster line is the 4-slice family model that has separate controls for each pair of slots. It can toast two slices dark, two light, at the same time to suit each member of the family.

Won't that make the mornings cheerier!

Free Patterns

Holiday Potholders

Holiday cooking is fun with a crocheted snowman and Christmas tree to work as potholders.

Christmas Gifts

Learn to wrap lots of beautiful packages with shiny paper, colorful yarn and trimming bits.

Jeweled Clock

A jeweled clock that is really a pincushion is a charming favor to give a holiday guest.

Santa's Puppet

Crochet Santa's puppet friend to leave under the tree on Christmas morning.

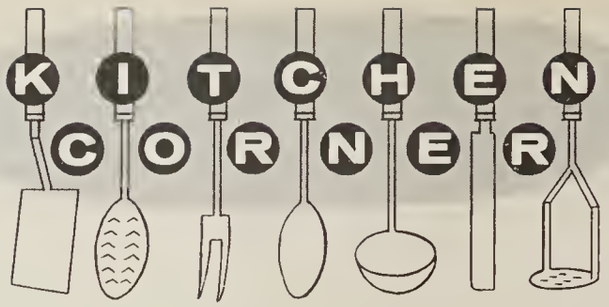
To:
The Carolina Homemaker
P.O. Box 1699
Raleigh, N.C. 27602

This pattern offer expires
February 15, 1968

Please send me the pattern instructions I have checked below. I am enclosing a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope bearing a 6-cent stamp. (Two such envelopes are required for more than 4 patterns).

☐ Holiday Potholders ☐ Jeweled Clock
☐ Christmas Gifts ☐ Santa's Puppet

My Name is: _____
Address: _____
Comment, if Any: _____
_____
The Name of My Electric Co-op is: _____



ORANGE FRUIT CAKE

That spicy smell of something special baking in the kitchen just means it is holiday time. Kitchen Corner would like to present a delicious variation of a holiday favorite — a recipe for Orange Fruit Cake sent to us by Mrs. Willie P. Jones of Indian Trail, North Carolina.

Mrs. Jones writes that she is a housewife who enjoys cooking, fixing flowers and working in her vegetable garden. Mrs. Jones' husband is a carpenter and she has a twenty year old son. The Jones family is served by Union Electric Membership Corporation.

Mrs. Jones says she has given this recipe for Orange Fruit Cake to many of her friends who have enjoyed it. We hope all of our readers will enjoy her recipe too . . . and Happy Holidays to all of you.

If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share through this column, send it to: Betty McBride, Kitchen Corner, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602. Tell us something about yourself and family and give us the name of your electric membership corporation. We pay $2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

CAROLINA FARMER RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. Willie P. Jones, Rt. 1, Box 541, Indian Trail, North Carolina.

ORANGE FRUIT CAKE

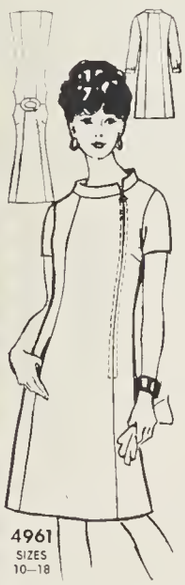
1 c. sugar
½ c. shortening or margarine
2 eggs
¾ c. buttermilk
grated rind from 1 orange
juice from 2 oranges
2 c. cake flour
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. nuts (pecan or English walnuts)
1 c. dates

Cream together sugar and shortening. Add eggs. Add buttermilk and flour. Mix in grated orange rind, juice from 2 oranges, 1 tsp. soda, salt, vanilla. Mix well. Stir in nuts and dates. Bake at 350° for 1 hr. and 10 minutes.

Mix together and pour over cake after baking while hot:

grated rind of 1 orange
1 c. sugar
½ c. orange juice

Fashion FAVORITES



Pattern No. 4770 is cut in waist sizes 23, 24, 25 1/2, 27 and 29.
Pattern No. 4961 is cut in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.
Pattern No. 4689 is cut in sizes 12 1/2, 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2 and 22 1/2.
Pattern No. 9056 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46.
Pattern No. 4625 is cut in sizes 2, 4, 5 and 8.

Send 50 cents in coin (na stamps) for each pattern ta: CAROLINA FARMER, Bax 42, Old Chelsea Statian, New Yark, N.Y. 10011.
For first class mail, add 15 cents for each pattern.

EDITORIAL

Cause for Action

The outmigration which is robbing rural North Carolina of its growth is being checked, but it remains a serious problem.

Figures released recently by State REA Chairman Gwyn B. Price show that although North Carolina's rural population is increasing, seven counties lost rural population last year. This was implicit in a comparison with the number of rural electric consumers for 1967-68 with those of previous years.

The number rose from 900,456 as of July 1, 1966, to 973,947 as of July 1, 1968, The increase shows improvement but the fact that seven counties had net losses in rural electric consumers shows by contrast the need of greater emphasis on rural development.

Outmigration occurs because displaced farm workers, tenants and young people leave their home communities for lack of adequate employment and economic opportunity. Outmigration can be stopped only if economic opportunities are increased and rural communities are made better places for people to live and work.

The job of rural development requires the unstinting support of every member of rural communities. It is a job that goes beyond self-interests. It is one which electric cooperatives and power companies must share jointly and which must not be retarded by the efforts of power companies to discredit electric co-ops as industrial power suppliers.

The seven counties that had fewer rural electric consumers as of July 1, 1968, than as of July 1, 1967, were: Madison, which had a net loss of 23; Henderson, a net loss of 250; Yadkin, a net loss of 751; Rowan, a net loss of 261; Halifax, a net loss of 198; Bertie, a net loss of 149, and Martin, a net loss of 79.

The seven counties are in trouble, and North Carolina will be in trouble as long as any rural area in any of its counties is not gaining in population and opportunities.

Jim Chaney

What It Was Was Baseball

You'd never know, if you visited State Labor Commissioner Frank Crane in his big office building in Raleigh, that he was big league in the bush leagues when baseball was truly the great American sport. The commissioner, who says he enjoys your magazine, now turns up as one of its authors with a personal recollection of his days on the diamond and the swan song of the Goose Creek Goslings.

By Frank Crane

The writer grew up in a cross-roads community known as Goose Greek, located in Union County, North Carolina, near the South Carolina line. It was a dirt-farming, cotton-growing community. After "lay-by" time (the period between cultivating the crops and getting in the sheaves), my "country cousins" and I had a little time for that great American pastime, baseball.

Our club was known as "The Goslings." This moniker served a dual purpose, in that it identified us as being from Goose Creek, but principally it was in respect and admiration of the late, great "Goose Goslin" of the Washington Senators.

After some practice and physical shaping up from stringhalts (country Charlie horses), stone bruises and stubbed toes — the usual agricultural ailments — by profuse use of kerosene, turpentine and Hornet's nest linament, we became "purty good," we thought.

We had beaten our arch-rival, Rough Edge. The Rough-Edgers had become our eternal enemies, in that they had insulted and infuriated us by disrespectfully dubbing us the "Crazy Geeses." This annual game was a farmer's feud, often ending in fisticuffs.

Then we conquered Indian Trail, Locust, Prospect, Rock Rest, Six Mile and Oliver Branch.

After this unbroken string of victories, we looked around for new worlds to conquer. We went "Big League" (by our standards) and challenged the Pageland "Palmettos," just over the line in South Carolina, some 25 miles away "as the crow flies."

On the scheduled day, the "B-Nine-D" bunch, plus as many rabid club followers as payload permitted, piled into a Model T herd-tired, open-body Ford truck for the foray into South Carolina. But, would you believe who the "Palmettos" were pitching? None other than their own native son, Van Lingle Mungo, who was to go on to fame and fortune as a Big League flinger.

We were "hit-mutilated" and "horse-collared." This, in spite of the fact that one of our enterprising supporters had turned us some special bats in his blacksmith shop, out of branch-bank birch saplings, which he had drilled and corked. We hardly got a foul and nary a hit —'cept our second baseman, "Boll Weevil" Brown, in attempting to dodge, got a bunt but died on base. We seemed to be short of wood for Van Lingle's hard and fast stuff. It was as if we were battling with "Fungo Fly Swatters."

It is doubtful that we would have even gotten "into holts" had we not been the visiting team, with the privilege of being first at bat.

In the seventh inning, "Cordwood" Dixon, one of our outfielders, did get a "buzzard blooper" (the opposite kind of hit from that the late dismissed from Falstaff Brewing Company, Dizzy Dean, describes as a "blue darter").

Even our port-sider "Pitchfork" Plyler was unnerved by having to face Mungo. He was as wild as a Canadian goose at the end of the hunting season. He had added to his own woes by an admixture of slippery elm sap to his chewing tobacco. Pitchfork couldn't find the pot and when he finally did, the Palmettos pulversized his plow-handled curve.

Pitchfork was pulled in the fifth and our south paw — "Scythe" Sutton — was substituted; but Scythe could not stay the slaughter, the damage had been done.

I shall not disclose the final score. The bedraggled and "Be-Gone Goslings" returned to their pond, vowing never to migrate "South of the Border" again.

Vocational Education

Far too many of our young farm youth are rejected by the draft because of lack of an education. Every effort should be made to educate people so they will be prepared for the challenges attendant to our modern technological society.

Improved vocational programs will raise the level of skills, the level of income and industrial capacity we are capable of achieving . . . Vocational education is essential to the development and well-being of our people.

Joe L. Morgan
Rt. 2, Marshall, N.C.

Death of a House

How quickly the wreckers
Smashed the slate shingles from the roof
And broke away the rafters.
How long had the old house stood
Secure under its slate roof
With its seasoned siding
And its tall gables with scroll-work?
The craftsmen who built it had built well.
From the large circular window in the gable
Overlooking the front entrance
To the graceful millwork decorating the upper story,
There was an archaic charm about the house
And a sturdiness and substance.
How quickly the wreckers
Broke the circular window from its frame
And knocked away the siding.
Broken glass and shatter boards
Lie now in a shambles about its foundations
And the strong old house, the graceful house,
Is now a roofless facade.
How quickly the wreckers
Obliterate the craftsmen's work.
How soon the city will forget
How it was before the wreckers came.

—Jim Chaney

the Christmas Closet

(Continued from Page 7)

He put the wrapping paper back around the carton not nearly as neatly as it had been wrapped about it originally. He tried to retie the string but, because he had cut it, it was too short to tie. He put the train back in the big cardboard box, realizing as he did so that there were other cartons there he might have examined. He rewrapped the baby doll in its carton and placed it in the big box not even bothering to retie the string about it. And when he had stuffed the towels back in place, he backed out of the closet and closed the door.

When he came downstairs again, he found Frances seated in the big imitation leather rocking chair studying her first grade reader.

"Where have you been?" she asked.

"Oh, just upstairs," he said.

"You better stay out of things up there," she said. "Mama told me none of us should do any rummaging or pulling out or we'd spoil our Christmas. She said if we did we'd really be sorry."

The boy couldn't think of an answer.

"I think I'll make me a cheese and mustard sandwich," he said.

"You'll spoil your supper," Frances told him.

"It's already spoiled," he said.

He went into the kitchen. He didn't make the cheese and mustard sandwich. Instead he closed the little door that led to the stairs and sat unhappily quiet on one of the kitchen chairs. Something was wrong. Doll babies and toy trains hidden in the upstairs closet. There had to be an explanation but he couldn't think of one.

All he could think of was that he wanted that freight train with the switches and the siding and the station and signals worse than anything he ever wanted before. The American Flyer passenger train in the closet was no substitute. He'd have to find a way to tell somebody. He supposed he'd have to write Santa Claus another letter, and maybe ought to tell Mama. But how could he do that without letting her know he'd been doing again something he shouldn't.

"Frances," he called from the kitchen, "do you think there really is a Santa Claus?"

"I think so," she said. "What do you think?"

And the boy answered dolefully, "I don't know. I just don't know. But if I don't get what I want for Christmas I'm going to give up believing."

The weeks until Christmas passed so slowly that the boy wondered if Christmas Eve would ever come. He worried and wondered about the big box in the closet. He worried about Santa Claus and he laboriously wrote several letters telling about the freight train in the catalog and making it clear that a passenger train wouldn't do. He addressed the letters to the North Pole and gave them to his mother to mail.

On Christmas morning the boy was the first out of bed. He scrambled from under the covers and off the davenport and ran to the Christmas tree.

There was a large box under the tree with a bright picture of a smoking train racing across it. Inside was a freight train—the very one he had seen in the catalog.

He took out the train and assembled the track.

Later when Mama came down with Pa, she looked at him and the train.

"Did Santa Claus bring you what you wanted?" she asked.

"Oh yes," he said happily. "A train exactly like I wanted, with everything I wanted."

"And I'll bet," she said with a sly smile," this is one Christmas you were really surprised."

There was something about the way Mama spoke that made him blush and that puzzled him. He had been surprised. And he was bewildered. And he was as happy in his bewilderment as he ever had been before in all the eight Christmases of his life.

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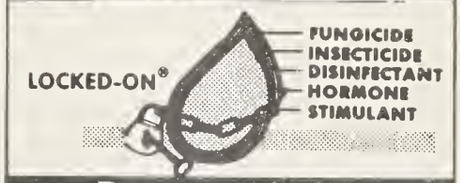

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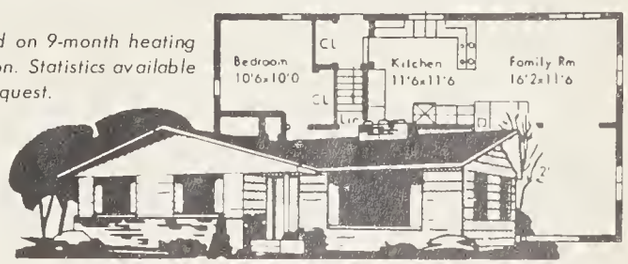

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"How Often Should a Teenager Be Allowed to Use the Family Car?"

"I think a teenager should be allowed to use the car three times a week usually — once during the week and twice on weekends. A teenager must remember to look at both sides of the picture if he thinks three times is not enough. Parents want to go out sometimes too."

Paulette Waring
Rt. 1, Box 45
Morven

Paulette is 13 years old and attends McRae Junior High School. Her hobbies are cooking and reading. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Waring, are served by Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"I think that a teenager who has learned to obey and accept responsibility should be allowed to use the car twice a week. Teenagers should use the car mostly on Friday and Saturday nights. This way there is no conflict with homework and school the next day."

Barbara Shelton
Box 404
Marshall

Barbara is 16 years old and a junior at Marshall High School. Her hobbies are cooking and swimming. Her father, Mr. Chester Shelton, is a member of French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

"I think as long as a teenager proves himself to be dependable and reliable he should be allowed to use the family car often. The teenager should always return the car at the promised time to be able to continue to use the car. If the family needs the car, the teenager should realize this and not cause trouble by asking for the car."

Connie Brim
Rt. 1, Box 235
Madison

Connie is 15 years old and a sophomore at South Stokes High School. She likes to sew and knit. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lee Brim, are served by Davidson Electric Membership Corporation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"I think a teenager should have the car every now and then because he may want to use the car for sensible teenager's reasons such as dates or just plain riding around. However, the teen should prove himself to be eligible. By that I mean a careful driver: one who is always alert. If the teenager is a good driver, the parents won't mind letting him have the car."

Odessa Dent
Rt. 1, Box 139
Eure

Odessa is 15 years old and a sophomore at Gates County High School. She enjoys playing the piano and singing. Her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Dent, are served by Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation.

If you have a good answer, send it to **THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE**, The Carolina Farmer, P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C., at once. Tell us a few facts about yourself—your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name, and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you $5.

If you want to submit a question, send it along for our statewide panel to answer. For each question used, the sender will get a $5 check. Jot yours down and send it to us right away.

NEXT QUESTION

"How late do teenagers believe they should be allowed to stay out on dates?"

This question was submitted by Joanna Davis, who will be receiving $5 dollars from THE CAROLINA FARMER. Joanna is 17 years old and attends Benhaven High School. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davis, are served by Central Electric Membership Corporation.

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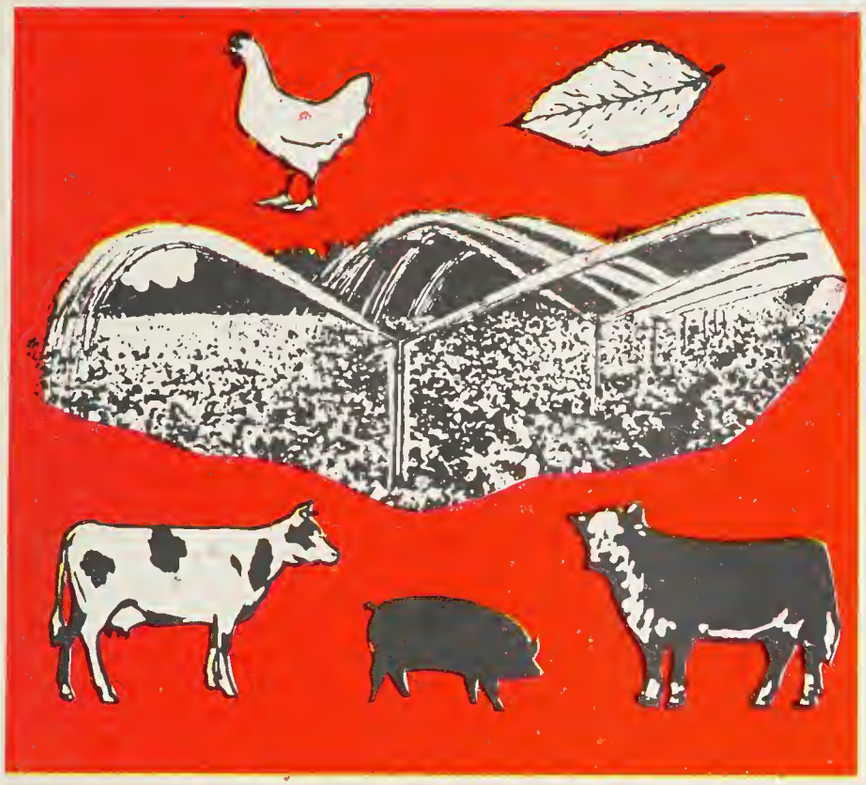

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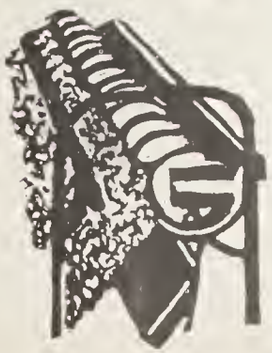


Examples of mechanization for every phase of farming will be displayed at the third Farm Materials Handling Exposition in Dorton Arena at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds January 22 - 23, 1969.

More than 80 exhibits will give farmers and agri-businessmen an opportunity to see the latest in labor-saving and profit-producing farmstead machinery.

Some 20,000 interested farmers and agricultural leaders from across the state attended the 1967 exposition. Their reaction was so overwhelmingly favorable — and interest in the equipment was so intense — that the sponsors planned the upcoming third event.

The exposition, the largest of its kind ever held in the Eastern United States, is sponsored by all the electric power suppliers in the state and North Carolina State University.

Many of the exhibitors from the 1967 show will be back — but with different equipment and bigger displays. Also, up-to-date irrigation equipment will be shown for the first time.

No matter what phase of farming you specialize in — dairying, hog production, beef cattle production, broiler production or egg production — you owe it to yourself, your family and your business to attend the show. Regardless of the size of your farm — perhaps you only have grain to move occasionally — you'll learn ways to increase profits and reduce labor costs.

Representatives with various companies will gladly show you where mechanization can reduce costly hand labor and increase your operating efficiency and income. They will also answer any questions you might have.

A huge crowd of farmers is expected at the exposition, but there will be plenty of room for everyone, with acres of free parking. Admission is, of course, free.

Several electric cooperatives and other groups are making plans to charter buses to and from Raleigh on one or both days of the exposition. Before arranging your own transportation, you might check with your electric co-op to see if such arrangements are being made.

Mark the dates of the show on your calendar now. Your attendance could prove to be the most profitable day you've spent in some time — in more ways than one.

We'll see you there.

— Ed Brown, Jr.

Albemarle Electric Is Leader In Section With Bright Future

RURAL ELECTRIC PROFILE

There's an unmistakable air of peacefulness and tranquility around Hertford and Perquimans County. The town, with its bit of Colonial charm, looks out over the seemingly motionless Perquimans River.

John D. Coston, manager of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation headquartered in Hertford, looks to the future and sees new challenges. He sees a growing and changing membership; he sees the need for system expansions and added power-load capabilities.

Albemarle EMC serves in Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties. Approximately 70 percent of its members are engaged in farming mostly large-acreage grain crops such as corn, soybeans and peanuts. The farms are relatively large, averaging 250-300 acres.

The cooperative is striving to render better service to its nearly 4,000 members. For example, more three-phase power is needed and planned for grain-drying operations and other farm uses.

When its manager says, "We are further away from our potential than other electric cooperatives," he is referring, in part, to expanded three-phase service. But he refers to a larger extent to a new breed of member-consumers that will enable the co-op to double its membership in a dozen years.

This "new breed" will consist of seasonal members and retired people who are finding their way to Perquimans County from all over the United States to enjoy the peace and quiet it offers.

"Most of the people are looking for a home away from home," said Coston. "Many of them come from out of state, mostly from Virginia, but they also come from Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania . . .

"People come here to enjoy the quiet, comfortable living," he added. "Although the cottages are used for weekends and vacations now, many of the people will retire here."

There are approximately 20 sub-divisions of cottages in Albemarle's service area scattered about the banks of the Albemarle Sound. Together, these sub-divisions represent about 4,000 homes for new members.

"Once all these lots are filled," said Coston, "that will give us more members than we have now." He said that about 20 percent of the lots have houses on them now, that in six or seven years 50 percent will be filled, and that the job would be completed in 10 to 12 years.

The cooperative is already running lines into sub-divisions such as Snug Harbor, Arrow Head, and Carolina Shores. With the new houses scattered here and there, the co-op is going to considerable expense to provide electric service to each new member, especially in terms of the low revenue from seasonal accounts. Many of the homes, however, are all-electric homes.

Coston can also look to the northeastern section of the co-op's service area and see a tremendous growth potential. There, a huge tract of swamp land—40,000 acres—known as Dismal Swamp is being cleared, drained, and transformed into tenable farm land by Atlantic Farms Corporation.

"The corporation will lease the land to young men who are interested in farming grain crops," said Coston. "Machine shops and all-electric homes are planned for the area." Industry may possibly locate there, too, he added.

Albemarle EMC will serve most of the new area since it covers Perquimans and Pasquotank counties, but some of the land will be in Virginia. "In ten years, the area is supposed to represent a power load of 1200 KVA for us," said Coston.

Prospects for the development of the Dismal Swamp area are also encouraging because Norfolk is moving that way. Only 60 miles from Hertford, many of the co-op's members work in Norfolk — some on a seasonal basis when not farming.

Albemarle EMC was chartered Feb. 24, 1945 and its lines energized in 1946. By the end of the first full year of operation (1947), it had 358 miles of line serving 933 members.

Its present directors are: J. A. Whitehurst, South Mills, president; J. A. Wiggins, Tyner, vice-president; Floyd Mathews, Rt. 3, Hertford, secretary; W. R. Lowery, Rt. 4, Elizabeth City, treasurer; A. T. Lane, Rt. 1, Hertford; John N. Bunch, Rt. 2, Edenton; Tommie Temple, Rt. 5, Elizabeth City; W. E. Meiggs, Camden; and Everett Sawyer, South Mills.

Lane, a former president, has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives where he is now Sergeant-at-Arms. Coston credits Lane with getting the co-op started. "He helped organize and incorporate it," said Coston. Lane served as Co-ordinator during the formation of Albemarle.

John Coston became manager of Albemarle in 1950. Since that time the number of members has increased from 1,752 to 3,872. The average monthly use of electricity has climbed from 96 kilowatt hours per member to 460 kwh.

The average monthly price paid per kwh has been reduced from 4.1 cents in 1950 to 2.2 cents. And the system has expanded from 541 miles of line to 709. The co-op employs 14 people and has an annual payroll of $85,000. Albemarle's members can proudly boast of a modern, new headquarters building finished just last year.

Sound in its finances, Albemarle has repaid $796,336 of the $2,287,662 it has borrowed through the years from REA, plus $408,524 in interest. It has increased to 20.8 percent its member-furnished equity capital, and has assigned $644,179 in margins as capital credits to members, and has paid $232,927 to members in cash margins.

John David Coston was born Oct. 9, 1907 in Hookerton, N.C., the son of Charles G. and

Katherine McDuffy Coston. His father was the RFD mail carrier at Hookerton for 32 years.

Coston has one brother, Charlie D. Coston, who also lives in Hookerton and has carried mail on the same route as his father for the past 30 years.

Coston graduated from Hookerton High School in 1922, and immediately became Superintendent of Utilities for the Town of Hookerton — a job he kept for the next 18 years.

In 1942 during World War II, he went to Patterson Field in Fairfield, Ohio as an aircraft electrician.

After eight months at Fairfield, Coston returned to Maxton, N.C. where he was electric supervisor with Metcalf and Eddy Company on the construction of the Maxton Laurinburg Air Facility.

In 1943, Coston took a new position as mechanical and electrical inspector with the Federal Public Housing Authority headquartered in Atlanta. During the next two years, he inspected emergency housing projects in various states such as Florida and Mississippi.

By 1945, Coston was back in Hookerton with his own business — an electrical construction and appliance sales firm. On July 1, 1950, he went to Hertford to become manager of Albemarle EMC. The job became available when G. L. Whitley resigned his position as manager there to become manager of Pitt & Greene EMC in Farmville.

Mrs. Coston, the former Grace Mattock, was born in Maysville, N.C. They met in Hookerton while she was teaching high school there. "I claim she taught me," he said jokingly, "But she won't accept that." They were married May 23, 1942.

Coston said his hobbies are mainly fishing and growing plants. His house in Hertford is near the Perquimans River. "I catch a lot of fish right on my back doorstep," he said. "And I've got a boat tied to my back doorknob," he kidded.

While at Albemarle Coston has made the co-op a true community builder. In the nearby community of Winfall, for example, the co-op encouraged and worked with the people to help develop a community water system.

John Coston: Looking at proposed system expansions to meet area's future growth.

A first attempt in 1963 failed, but this past May the town turned on its own water for the first time. "Now the town has several good industrial sites that would have been impossible without water," said Coston.

Active in community and civic affairs, Coston has served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the Winfall Water Board, the Industrial Development Corporation, and the Albemarle area Development Association of which he was also vice-president.

He has also served on the Hertford Housing Authority and Hertford Zoning Board. He and Mrs. Coston attend the Hertford Methodist Church.

Coston is also a past vice-president of Tarheel Electric Membership Association and has served on the TEMA board. "I just got off all the boards," he said. "Now I'm looking for something new."

Perhaps Coston was "looking for something new" when Albemarle assisted in organizing and financing the Albemarle Area Development Association of which he has served as chairman of the Industrial Development Committee. Or maybe it was when the co-op helped launch and finance the Albemarle Planning Commission.

The Association consists of a 10-county planning group which along with the State Department of Conservation and Development has conducted studies to direct the planning of new industries and the general development of the area.

Studies have been done in such areas as forestry, fisheries, population, geography and arts. "These studies help the communities to attract and accept industries when the opportunity occurs," Coston explained.

John Coston will undoubtedly always "be looking for something new," because his record shows that he has always worked for the good of the people in the area. His record also shows that he has been a success.

Maybe an event shortly after he became manager gave Coston just the challenge he needed. "In 1950, we were described by REA as the less likely co-op to succeed in North Carolina," he said with a smile that let you know that challenge had been conquered.

Coston believes that Albemarle's greatest contribution to the area — aside from providing it with electric power when no one else would — has been its ability to provide a common interest for such a large group of people over a large area.

"People bring problems here aside from electric problems," he said. "They call on the co-op for many types of help and information. They feel free to do this because they feel the co-op does belong to them. If you don't believe it, get on the telephone with one of them sometimes."

With this spirit of cooperation, it's apparent that John Coston has put Albemarle's members first and made the co-op a true vehicle of cooperative achievement.

Ed Brown, Jr.

HaLE!

The Great Society

The history professor was lecturing about the early days of colonization in this country. "When the pioneers started to settle this country," he began, "the Indians were running things pretty much their own way. There was no air pollution, no smog, no water pollution from city wastes. Taxes were unheard of. There was no such thing as a national debt. The land was free; and, when one place failed to produce a living for the tribe, the Indians simply moved to a more productive spot. Among the Indians, too, the women did all the work and the men were regarded as being the important ones. Are there any questions?"

A student raised his hand. "Please sir," he asked, "how did the pioneers think that they could possibly improve on a system like that?"

Emancipated Woman

Little Johnny was second in his class. Top place was held by a girl. "Surely son," said his father, "you are not going to let yourself be beaten by a mere girl."

"Well, you see, Daddy," Johnny explained soberly, "girls aren't nearly as mere as they used to be."

Money Power

"I must be getting stronger."

"How can you tell?"

"Well, a few years ago I couldn't carry $5 worth of groceries. Now it's easy."

Happiness Is Messy

The four-year-old son came in from the backyard in a general state of disarray.

"You're a mess," his mother scolded.

"Yes," agreed the kid, "but I'm happy."

"I'm going to write my letter to Santa."

Glowing Report

The warden of the prison called in a man who was serving time for fraud. "I understand," he said, "that you're here because of an oil deal in which you wrote a prospectus so glowing that it sold the suckers by the thousands."

"That's right," said the prisoner. "I was a bit glowing in my praises."

"Well," the warden said, "the governor wants a report on conditions in the prison and I'd like you to write it for me."

Planting Time

An Irish revolutionary serving time in prison received a letter from his wife saying that because of his absence she would have to dig the garden herself. "Bridget, please don't dig the garden," wrote Pat. "That's where the guns are."

The letter was duly censored, and in a short time soldiers came and dug up the garden from end to end.

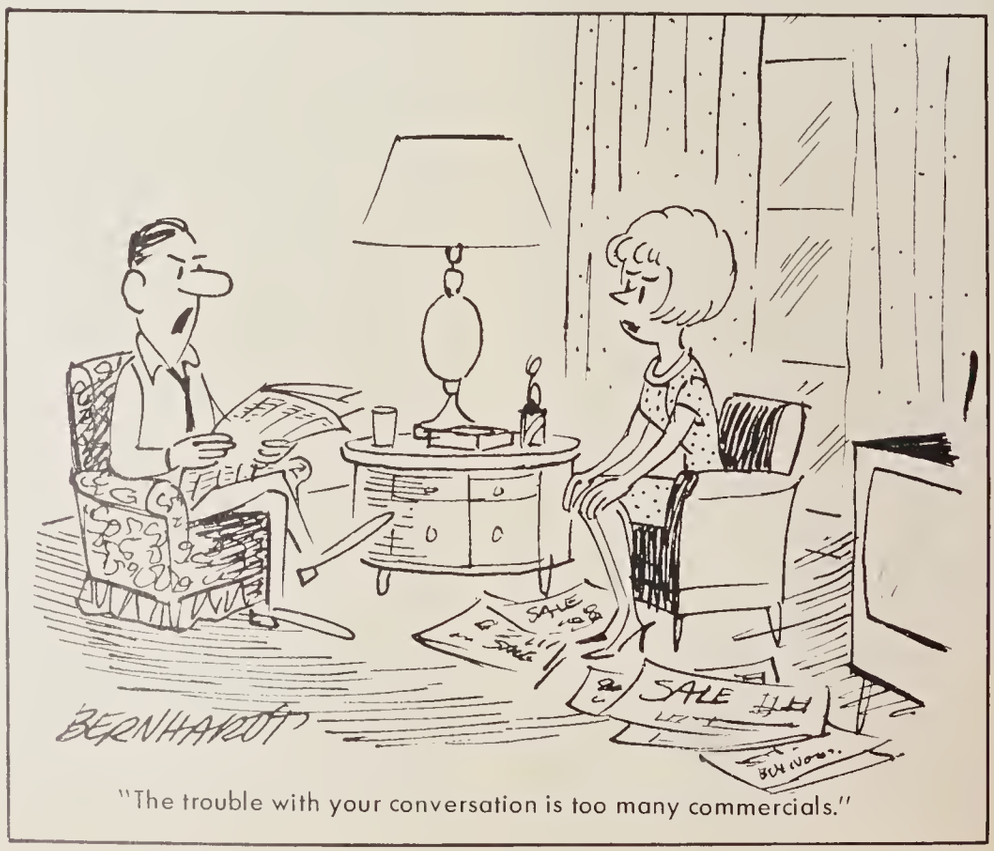
Bridget, worried over the incident, wrote Pat asking what she should do. Pat's reply was short and to the point:

"Put in the spuds."

Head of the Class

The history professor told his students that the mid-term exam would be an open-book test. "You may use any reference materials," he stated, "that you can carry into the classroom."

On the appointed day, students staggered to their seats, loaded down with books, almanacs, reference sheets and periodicals. However, one student simply carried a pretty girl into the classroom and sat her down beside him . . . his girl friend, a candidate for Ph.D. in history.



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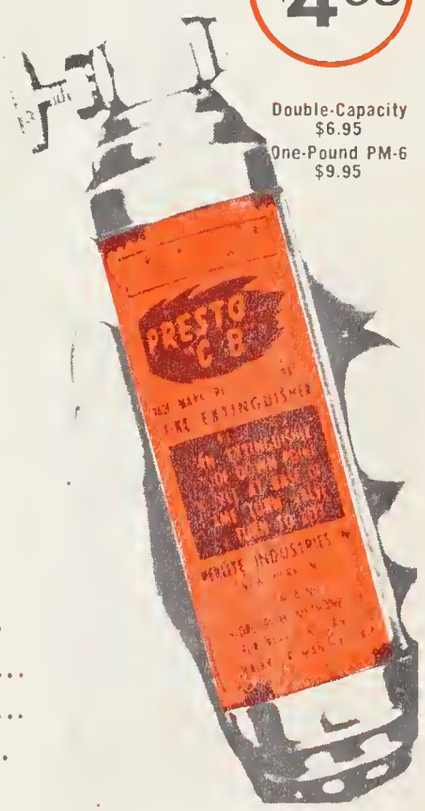

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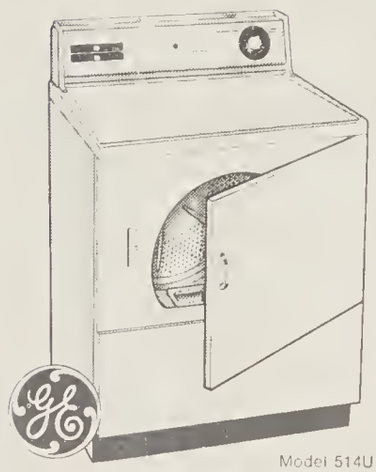

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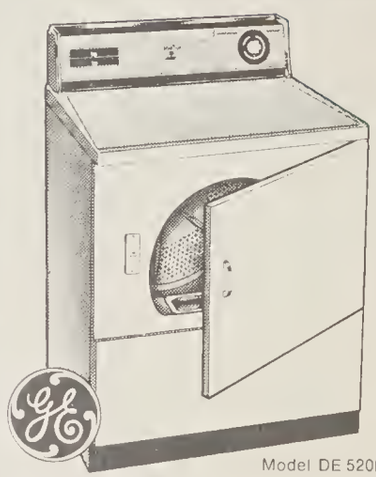

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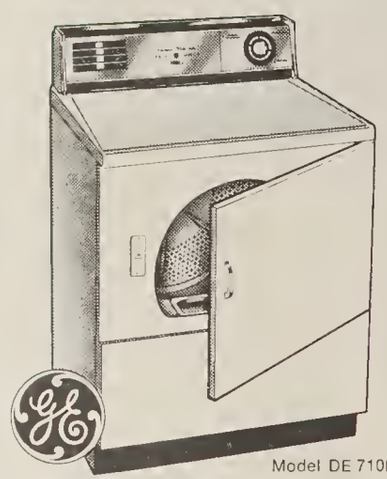

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